

REPUBLICAN RESPONSE ON
PENSIONS

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I will answer the challenge of the last speaker and be glad to meet any time on this House floor and defend that proposal after I look into it, provided that he comes to the floor and also defends the reason why he continues to support higher taxes, higher spending, higher debt, supporting corporate welfare with the Commerce Department, supporting welfare for lobbyists, supporting all the things that the American people rebuked a year ago when we had the Republican revolution.

The Republican Party has stood for less taxes, less spending, less regulations, wiping out the Commerce Department and wiping out welfare for lobbyists. It is time that the Democratic Party gets the message. Step forward and support us in this revolutionary change. We are changing Washington and we will continue to do it today.

PENSION RAID

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, for the last several months, since the beginning of this year, in fact, the Speaker of this House and his followers have been trying to convince the American people that the best way to save the Medicare Program is by raiding it to the tune of \$240 billion. I think that the people of this country have clearly seen through that ploy. Now what they are trying to do is to convince us that the best way to treat American workers is to raid their pension funds by \$40 billion.

The last speaker who was up here said that he would be happy to look into this, but the fact of the matter is, he has already voted for it. It was in the budget reconciliation bill. This House, the majority party in this House, led by the Speaker, has already passed a bill that would take \$40 billion out of the pension programs of American workers, robbing them of the security for which they have worked all their lives. It is a shameless raid on their assets and it needs to be stopped.

TUESDAY'S ELECTION

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the conservative revolution in this country is alive and well. Tuesday bore that out once again when we had conservative Republicans win elections all over the country. We retained for the first time ever, ever that a single party has held a ma-

jority in the legislature in New Jersey for three successive elections. We have the largest number of seats in the Virginia legislature in fully 120 years.

And not only that, but a Republican actually won in Kentucky. Governor Forgy campaigned on smaller government, tax cuts, death penalty, conservative government and on election night, he said: "Today Kentucky said yes to smaller, more efficient, more conservative government." It was simply that it was a Democrat masquerading as a Republican.

Now I want to share with my colleagues something from the Washington Post of a couple of days ago where they have said, they asked the same questions about President Clinton that we have been asking all year. They said:

He has walked away from the welfare bill he sent to Congress last year. Perhaps he will say he did not mean to send up last year's health care reform proposals either. It becomes increasingly difficult to know what this President stands for or whether he stands for anything.

THE BIGGEST PENSION RAID EVER

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY].

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

The response I would have to the preceding speaker who just said he would "look into the facts surrounding the \$40 billion pension raid" explains the seriousness of this proposal.

It was advanced in the Committee on Ways and Means—the biggest pension raid on employee pensions ever allowed in history by a Congress. It did not even have a hearing. It then came to the floor of the House and I sought, along with some of my colleagues, an opportunity to independently debate and vote on this pension raid proposal.

The Committee on Rules did not allow us to single out the pension raid proposal. It was part of the Budget Reconciliation Act. And as the preceding speaker indicated, he did not even know it was in there. He said he will look into it.

He has already voted for it—\$40 billion, the biggest raid on employee pension plans.

The majority leader said it right earlier this year in response to another proposal, he said, "keep your paws off worker pensions." The Republican majority would be well advised to follow this advice and drop the pension raid provision of the Budget Reconciliation Act.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, no more excuses. No more gimmicks. It is put-up or shut-up time on balancing the budget.

If the President wants to veto the continuing resolution we passed today, then it is time for this body to take away not only his credit card but all the departments of this Federal Government's credit cards and the abuse of the taxpayer dollars.

Balancing this country's books is what the American people are demanding. The President and his ilk cannot hide behind their Medicare tactics anymore. The truth is out.

The taxpayer's share of part B is currently 31.5 percent. And guess what, it will stay at 31.5 percent. We have put forward the only responsible plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy, and we have put forward the only responsible plan to balance this country's books by the year 2002.

If Members care about the young and if they care about the old, do what is right and support both of these plans.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, did the gentleman who just spoke refer to the President as "ilk" and if so is that outside the rules of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not aware of such a word on the RECORD.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I am sorry?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not aware of such a word on the RECORD and cannot respond at this point. The Chair will check the remarks. The Chair will ask all Members to be respectful to the President.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker, without asking, which I do not intend to do, that the gentleman's words be taken down, is it my understanding that the Chair intends to peruse the RECORD to determine if the gentleman used the word "ilk" and whether or not that was outside the rules?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A timely challenge was not made to the remarks. However, the Chair will request all Members to respect the President in their speeches.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I thank the Chair for an effort to continue civility in the House.

ON PENSION FUND REVERSIONS

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, the party of the rich and famous is up to their old tricks. The recently passed Republican budget reconciliation plan includes a provision